

CURRENT NEWS **EARLY BIRD**

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Miami Herald

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Soviets spied on Gulf War plans from Cuba, defector says *Cuban spy base can pick up Miami signals*

By Juan O. Tamayo
Herald Staff Writer

The Soviet Union knew U.S. battle plans in the Persian Gulf War in 1991, including the surprise "left hook" into Iraq, through an electronic spy network anchored in Cuba, a Russian defector claims.

Moscow did not leak the plans to Baghdad at the time, the defector said. But improved Russian-Iraqi relations these days may lead Moscow to be more friendly to President Saddam Hussein if U.S. troops plan to attack Iraq again.

Moscow's Lourdes spy center in Cuba is far bigger than publicly known, the defector added, a "monster" that collates data intercepted by Russian spy satellites, ships and planes in the entire Atlantic region.

CIA spokesmen would not comment on the claims by Stanislav Lunev, 50, a colonel in Soviet military intelligence - known as GRU -- who defected in Washington in 1992 while working as a Tass news

agency correspondent.

But other U.S. intelligence experts said Lunev's description of Lourdes was on target and that he is a serious defector who has lectured at the Pentagon, CIA and National Security Agency, which is in charge of U.S. electronic eavesdropping.

"The [U.S. intelligence] community certainly regards him as a credible defector with credible tales to tell," said one former NSA official who has met Lunev several times.

Lunev said he learned that Moscow was aware of Pentagon war plans when his GRU bosses asked him to analyze possible U.S. strategies based on secret cables sent by Moscow to the Soviet Embassy in Washington in late 1990 and early 1991.

U.S. communications

The cables summarized intercepts of U.S. communications, from the chatter of U.S. warplane pilots in flight to the private telephone conversations of soldiers and their families.

"I had the papers in my

hands and we knew all . . . including the surprise attack" into southwestern Iraq that encircled the bulk of Hussein's troops, Lunev told The Herald in a two-hour interview.

Lunev said he knows the information in the cables came from Lourdes because of their coding, and because friends and officials at the GRU told him so when he vacationed in Moscow soon after the war.

"There's no doubt . . . that Lourdes is the radio and radio-technical intelligence center [a Soviet term for electronic eavesdropping] that opened the envelope on these communications," he said.

Built by the GRU in the 1970s in the Havana suburb of El Wajay, Lourdes' antenna array can reportedly pick up electronic signals -- cellular, cordless or microwave phone calls plus CB and radios -- up to 1,000 miles away.

Full-fledged command

Lourdes also receives and collates intercepts by spy satellites, ships and planes in the

Atlantic region, making it a full-fledged regional command and control center with some 2,000 Russian staffers, Lunev said.

The former NSA officer said it also has "offensive jamming capabilities" capable of disrupting communications deep inside the United States.

"This is indeed a unique facility because of its size and location and capability," said Roger Robinson, who was director of international economic affairs in President Reagan's National Security Council.

Lunev said GRU officials told him after the Gulf War that President Mikhail Gorbachev had decided not to give Iraq the U.S. intercepts. But Moscow-Baghdad relations warmed significantly after the appointment of Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov, a Middle East expert who has known Hussein since 1969.

U.S. officials reportedly suspect that Russian intelligence agents have recently been spying on the U.N. teams

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inspecting Iraq's chemical and biological weapons sites, apparently to help Baghdad.

In 1990-91 "it was unheard of that Soviet intelligence agents would work for other countries," Lunev said. "But now it looks like they have begun to look for information in the interest of Saddam Hussein."

Burgeoning debate

Russia's Cuban spy platform

has been under attack by U.S. and Cuban-American conservatives in recent weeks as part of a burgeoning debate over whether Havana poses a security threat to the United States.

Moscow has been paying Cuba \$200 million a year to rent the Lourdes site since 1992, and carried out a \$90 million upgrade of the base over the past two years. Havana is reportedly seeking to raise the annual charge to \$1

billion, starting next year -- payable in Russian oil, weapons and military spare parts.

Lourdes' defenders argue that Washington cannot force the Russians to close the base because it is critical to Moscow's efforts to ensure that the U.S. military is not cheating on international disarmament treaties.

But U.S. critics say the center is a threat to U.S. security, capable of intercepting not

only American military secrets but also commercial and trade intelligence.

After the Soviet Union's collapse in late 1991, Robinson said, Russian intelligence agents "have been reported selling intercepts to entrepreneurs involved in mergers, acquisitions and foreign exchange transactions."

Miami Herald

Cuban spy base can pick up Miami signals

By Juan O. Tamayo
Herald Staff Writer

The Cuban military has long run its own smaller but much more secret version of the Russians' Lourdes electronic spying base, a unit known as the Electronic Warfare Battalion.

Cuba does not get copies of

the communications intercepted at Lourdes, only copies of Russian intelligence summaries on issues that could affect the island's security, said a former Cuban army lieutenant colonel who defected in 1992 and a retired official of the U.S. National Security Agency.

Adjoining the Russian base at El Wajay, nine miles southwest of Havana, is a Cuban-run "parallel signals intelligence

operation," the two sources said. It is not clear just how powerful this center is, but the defector said it could certainly pick up telephone and radio signals from Miami, 130 miles to the north.

The Interior Ministry's General Directorate for Intelligence runs a separate radio listening and transmitting post somewhere on the island, apparently to stay in touch with its spies abroad, the defector added.

And while the Electronic Warfare Battalion has the equipment to jam U.S. communications, it is not involved in the daily jamming of Radio and TV Marti broadcasts from the United States.

That jamming is carried out by a network of small radio transmitters deployed around Cuba's northern and southern coasts, the defector added, in an operation code-named "Titan."

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Cohen may let bases die if closing OK isn't given

But defense chief calls mothball option undesirable

Washington Times

April 3, 1998

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

Defense Secretary William S. Cohen, seeking congressional approval for more base closings, said yesterday he could recommend they be allowed to deteriorate if Congress balks.

"There are a number of options, certainly, available. ... I could recommend that we simply allow a deterioration in some of the facilities that would go without repairs. I could recommend that we simply start moving toward what might be called mothballing certain facilities," Mr. Cohen said at a Pentagon briefing.

But the former senator from Maine, who was sending a report to Congress seeking approval for two more rounds of base closures, quickly added that he did not consider that alternative palatable.

He said he would prefer to see communities work to bolster local job opportunities in the wake of any closure, which must be approved by Congress.

In addition, troop and community morale would plummet if a base were allowed to crumble instead of being closed, the secretary said.

"I think those are not really positive ... acceptable alternatives. But that's something I could do," Mr. Cohen added.

He argued that congressional approval of the two new rounds of closings would free \$20 billion annually that could be spent on updating America's military prowess. The money could purchase such weapons as:

- 450 Joint Strike Fighter jets for the Air Force.

- Two next-generation aircraft carriers and 12 of the Navy's planned surface combat ships.

- 650 Commanche helicopters and 800 Crusader advanced artillery systems for the Army.

- All 1,000 Advance Amphibious Assault Vehicles and 250 Joint Strike Fighters for the Marine Corps.

The secretary has made the argument many times in the past. Each time, members of Congress have turned a cold shoulder to their former colleague.

However, Mr. Cohen said he believed some lawmakers realize current budget agreements leave little excess money, and savings must be found somewhere. The

idea "is starting to receive greater support," he said.

Adm. Jay Johnson, the Navy's top admiral, appeared with Mr. Cohen to bolster his argument, saying, "If we don't shed structure, our war-fighting capability will suffer."

Mr. Cohen also introduced Ned Randolph, the mayor of Alexandria, La., who said the closure of England Air Force Base in his community did not lead to the calamity once feared.

"Where there was doom and gloom, there came hope ..." Mr. Randolph said. "We have made a success story out of what we thought would devastate our community."

His area got 1,500 civilians jobs — double the number prior to the 1992 base closure — by establishing an industrial park on the old base.

"There is life after base closure," Mr. Randolph said.

In his last budget submission, Mr. Cohen said two more rounds of base closings were needed, one in 2001 and the next in 2005. Congress rejected that same proposal a year earlier.

For the Record

From an interview with Secretary of Defense William Cohen Wednesday on "The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer":

Mr. Lehrer: On base closings, your proposal that you are announcing today is actually a repeat of one that you tried last year and didn't get, right?

Mr. Cohen: Right.

Q: What's the deal?

A: Well, the deal is that it's my job to bring this report to the attention of the Congress. It's been requested by the Congress -- an analysis as to why base closures are necessary. Last year we came close -- a tie vote in the Senate committee. Hopefully we'll be able to get it out of the committee into the full Senate floor this year.

But my job is to lay out the facts, and the facts would dic-

tate that we need at least two more base closures. I've recommended they begin in the year 2001 and 2005. And once they are completed we will have annual savings of some \$3 billion. But during the period of time between the years 2008 and 2015 we will save almost \$20 billion, and that \$20 billion can be invested in the kind of systems and the weaponry and readiness and quality of life that our forces need.

Q: And you are convinced beyond any doubt that that's the way to save the money? There is no other way to save this money? These bases must be closed?

A: That's one way. But there are other ways. . . . What we have in this particular case is an excess capacity. . . . Basically we're carrying a lot of excess capacity, and that in essence is a waste of taxpayer dollars.

European Stars & Stripes
April 3, 1998 Pg. 1

Lack of carrier a concern

By Ward Sanderson
Staff writer

NAPLES, Italy — When no Marines and no aircraft carriers are in the Mediterranean, American interests are at risk, Vice Adm. Charles S. Abbot recently told Congress. Though the Marines returned, the carrier left for home this week — with no immediate successor. And that comes after only a brief visit to European waters after months of cruising the Persian Gulf.

So now, as the aircraft carrier George Washington cruises somewhere between Spain and Virginia, it leaves this politically fragile, sun-washed part of the world without one of America's major symbols of sea might: a complete carrier group, imposing enough to deter some aggressors and tough enough to deliver a big

punch when diplomacy fails.

The admiral is "always happiest when he has both an amphibious readiness group and a carrier in the Med," said Cmdr. Brian Cullin, a spokesman for the 6th Fleet. Then the last few months have been less than joyful. For the most part, the Mediterranean has been without a carrier since November, when forces were moved to the Persian Gulf to avert or wage — depending on the political outcome — a war with Iraq.

That means if trouble would have broken in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, the Aegean or Africa, NATO would have been without some 80 aircraft it would otherwise have had. It also means the theater lacks a big piece of heavy-metal psychology: The Navy says carriers communicate commitment to allies, and tell everyone else the United States isn't just bluster. During his Feb. 25 speech before Congress, Abbot waxed with confidence about his European forces. But he also qualified his statements with warnings about lending too many ships and sailors to the gulf, though he conceded it was a worthy mis-

sion.

"At this moment, a dozen ships and 10,000 naval personnel that would normally constitute the bulk of maritime power" in the region are gone, Abbot told Congress. "... They are not available if a crisis were to flare up in the Mediterranean."

That has improved. The arrival of the amphibious assault ship Wasp, and the amphibious transport dock ship Trenton and the dock landing ship Portland brought more than 2,000 Marines to the theater — the normal number for a fleet landing force. They are currently busy in the Adriatic and ashore in Bosnia with Dynamic Response '98, an operation designed to show how fast ships and Marines can arrive in the Balkans when trouble breaks. According to the 6th Fleet, there are about 16 vessels in the Mediterranean now — some tenders, some warships.

That's close to the usual complement of 19. It's the lack of a carrier that smarts. Earlier, with the Marine unit missing, it looked like "we didn't have anyone here," Cullin said. But when a carrier will return to the Mediterranean is up to the secretary of defense, not the fleet.

"It could be weeks; it could be months," said Lt. Greg Geisen, also of 6th Fleet. Last week aboard the Wasp, the admiral sat down with sailors and ate spinach, pasta and beef while a TV camera rolled. During an interview with The Stars and Stripes, he said the 6th Fleet is better off than just a month earlier.

"I clearly am in a different position than when I appeared in front of Congress," he said. The Marines were back in the theater, and, at the time, so was a carrier. When asked if he wanted all his forces returned to European seas, he answered, "The national command authority has to decide where to send our battle groups."

He also echoed what he told Congress. "I'm not good at predicting when the need will occur," he said. "But I am confident there will be some crisis."

Last year, the fleet had three emergencies — in Albania, the former Zaire and Sierra Leone. Abbot has said what made

these rescues successful was having a ready fleet at his fingertips — which isn't the case if key ships are on loan to other theaters. And then there's Bosnia, still not settled even though NATO forced the factions to stop fighting. And Kosovo, whose uneasy population is 90 percent ethnic Albanian, yet is governed by Serbia. Revolutionaries there have other ideas. Long-standing, simmering feuds also worry NATO, King said. Turkey and Greece have glared at one another from across the Aegean for 20 years, both claiming Cyprus and other islands.

"The Turks feel the Greeks want to turn the Aegean into one great lake," King said. A full-scale conflict there would be an immediate crisis for NATO, since Turkey and Greece are both members.

"It would have very serious repercussions for the United States," King said. Another potential hot spot is Libya, quiet now but certainly not considered a friend of the Free World. King believes large, tough deterrents like carrier battle groups can motivate countries like Greece and Turkey to play nice. But he's skeptical of their influence on terrorists or freedom fighters.

"It's a question of who these folks are," King said. "If you're a few guys with AK-47s who are going to take out a police blockade in Kosovo ... it doesn't matter if the U.S. 6th Fleet is sitting in the Med."

Only two ships are deployed in the Mediterranean permanently — the La Salle, the 6th Fleet flagship, and Simon Lake, a submarine tender. A 6th Fleet carrier normally rotates into Europe for five months, then into the gulf for one. Then another takes its place, 6th Fleet's Geisen said. Now, with the George Washington bound for Norfolk, another carrier would typically be on its way.

"Right now, the (carrier John C.) Stennis should be here, and would be," Geisen said. But the Stennis is in the gulf instead. The fleet doesn't know when the Stennis — powered by two nuclear reactors for virtually nonstop endurance and offering up a swarm of 80 aircraft — will arrive in the Mediterranean.

U.S. lobbies to protect citizens from world court

Washington Times
April 3, 1998
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By Betsy Pisik
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

NEW YORK — The United States is mobilizing its embassies and calling in foreign defense attaches to lobby for diplomatic language that would let it protect American citizens before a proposed international criminal court.

Concerned that it is losing ground in negotiations on the court, the State Department sent cables to American embassies early yesterday, instructing its envoys to discuss the proposed procedures with top foreign ministry officials.

The Pentagon will also issue invitations to foreign defense attaches based in Washington to discuss the military component of the court, which would be authorized to try individuals accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

"This is very important to the United States," said a U.S. official, who spoke on the condition he not be identified. "We need to see that other governments are reacting positively" to new language proposed last week.

U.S. negotiators, fearful of becoming party to a treaty that would be seen to impinge on U.S. sovereignty, took a new tack last week during a three-week negotiating conference on a treaty to establish the court.

They proposed an article for the treaty on March 25 that would allow a nation to delay an inquiry, possibly for years, by promising to

conduct its own investigation of a suspected crime.

The proposal is not popular with human rights lawyers, who say it weakens the court and gives nations extra time to destroy evidence and silence witnesses.

American officials said the proposal is designed to give a greater role to the legal systems of individual nations.

The State Department, which has been pushing the idea of a permanent tribunal since 1995, has been under pressure from Congress to ensure that no American is ever tried by the international court.

Last week Jesse Helms, North Carolina Republican and chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said that any international court that could judge U.S. citizens was "dead on arrival."

The Senate needs to ratify any treaty before the United States becomes a party to it.

The American delegation at the negotiations, led by U.S. Ambassador for War Crimes Issues David Scheffer, has the difficult task of creating a permanent international court that will be acceptable to both Congress and the rest of the world.

The current negotiating session concludes today, with legal experts from 140 nations and more than 100 human rights and legal groups meeting to determine the shape and jurisdiction of the court.

It is slow going: With only three months before delegates are scheduled to meet in Rome to conclude the treaty, there are still

more than 1,700 pieces of disputed language in the 160-page document.

"It is terribly daunting," said one human rights lawyer. "The negotiations in Rome will be very difficult."

"The road to Rome remains steep," agreed a U.S. official, "but everyone is still marching onward."

The United States has few allies in its attempt to reserve the power to seek a trial for the U.N. Security Council — where it is one of five nations with veto power.

Many nations and human rights groups fear it will be impossible to get a case past the council and want the right to refer cases directly to the court.

Under the latest U.S. proposal, which few nations have commented upon publicly, the international prosecutor could override a country's right to hold its own trial if he determined the country had no political will or legitimate court system to prosecute a case.

The United States, presumably, would not find itself in that position.

"We have complete confidence in the U.S. legal system," said State Department spokesman James Rubin yesterday. "It should investigate and prosecute allegations involving Americans without concern that an international court will intrude unnecessarily."

Mr. Scheffer has said that American troops are in a unique position because of their frequent involvement in global affairs and peacekeeping and must be protected from "frivolous" prosecutions.

Washington Times

April 3, 1998

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NATO inspection corps alarms Serb stronghold

By Ivana Sekularac
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

PALE, Bosnia-Herzegovina — NATO muscle rolled into the Bosnian Serb stronghold of Pale yesterday to inspect a special police unit, alarming residents who thought they had come to arrest war-crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic.

Several hundred troops, backed

by tanks, armored vehicles and helicopters, swooped down on the dusty town just outside Sarajevo on a daylong snap operation.

Four armored vehicles fitted with machine guns were seen near the home of Mr. Karadzic, wanted by a U.N. tribunal for war crimes he is believed to have committed as the Bosnian Serbs' political leader during the 1992-95 war.

More firepower, including a

tank, took up positions outside an engine factory where the hard-line Serbian nationalist — who has not been seen in public for many months — is known to keep an office.

But the NATO-led peacekeeping Stabilization Force (Sfor) said in Sarajevo that the show of force was not intended to arrest Mr. Karadzic, 52, whose exact whereabouts remain a mystery.

Instead, the troops were carrying out a "no-notice" inspection of a Bosnian Serb police unit responsible for guarding official buildings and which is part of a bigger, heavily armed force subject to Sfor spot checks.

"It's an inspection of the Special Buildings Unit. That's all that is happening in Pale, Sfor spokesman

Maj. Peter Clarke said, adding that "nine or 10 sites" were being inspected at the same time.

The deployment was battalion-sized, meaning 400 or so troops were involved, plus about 100 combat vehicles. Most of the troops on the streets were Italians, although French and some American soldiers also were spotted.

Sources said German troops also took part.

Maj. Clarke said it was inevitable that the operation would provoke the idea that Mr. Karadzic — twice indicted by the U.N. International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia — was going to be arrested.

But many Pale inhabitants said they were alarmed and angry.

"I think they're putting us under occupation," said an 18-year-old woman, who, like other inhabitants, declined to give her name. "I

don't know what they are doing, but I don't feel safe when I see all this."

"We have to have a superiority complex when we see them because if they had any morals, they would do this on their own territory," a 38-year-old worker added. "They are doing this to demonstrate power, and that power can only cause revolt among people."

Mr. Karadzic, a psychiatrist, is blamed for ordering the worst atrocities of the Bosnian war as he and his army commander, Gen. Ratko Mladic, laid siege to Sarajevo and carried out a ruthless policy of "ethnic cleansing" of Muslim and Croatian areas.

Carlos Westendorp, the international community's powerful high representative in Bosnia, announced in Brussels March 26 that Mr. Karadzic could be arrested "before one month."

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Houston Chronicle

April 2, 1998

Close more military bases, or cheat the taxpayers

By William S. Cohen

AMERICA is the pre-eminent power in the world today, thanks to three mutually reinforcing elements of national power: a strong economy, forceful diplomacy and powerful armed forces that are well-trained, well-led and well-equipped. But will we remain the pre-eminent power in the future?

A key element in ensuring that we do is for Congress to allow the Department of Defense to close military bases we no longer need.

Excess bases use people and money that we desperately need to support our forces today and in the future.

The Defense Department's biggest challenge is finding the resources both to maintain current readiness to meet today's threats and at the same time to invest in technology and people to meet the threats we will face a decade and more in the future. We cannot neglect either the present or the future if America is remain a secure, prosperous country.

The crisis with Iraq demonstrates the importance of maintaining sufficient forces ready to fight, but it has also highlighted the strain under

which our military personnel and equipment continue to operate around the world. At the same time, the fact that it takes a decade or more to develop both weapons and military leaders underscores that we must invest today to fight and win tomorrow.

Few Americans realize that after the Berlin Wall was torn down, spending on weapons and other procurement was slashed by more than two-thirds, a trend we have sustained for many years thanks to the build-up of the early 1980s but which now must be reversed if future soldiers are to have the weapons they need.

We must maintain readiness and increase investment within a defense budget that will remain essentially flat for the foreseeable future. The only way to do this is to find efficiencies within the Defense Department. That is why Defense is reforming itself to increase use of the best business practices of the private sector, from consolidating offices and reducing staffing, to allowing the private sector to compete for commercial functions previously done in-house.

A critical element of this effort is to eliminate excess bases and other facilities that

we no longer need to defend the nation. Since the height of the Cold War, Defense's overall budget is down 40 percent and the size of our forces is down 36 percent. Yet even after four rounds of base closure, we have reduced our infrastructure by only 21 percent. We have far fewer submarines and aircraft, for example, but the pier space and air bases supporting them has not fallen accordingly. Similar excess is evident in most areas of the force.

That is why I am now asking Congress to approve two more rounds of the Base Realignment and Closure process. The BRAC process, in which an independent panel evaluates which specific bases are excess, is a proven success. As result of the first four rounds of BRAC, Defense will soon be saving \$5.6 billion per year. If it were not for these savings from past base closures, our military today would be unable to meet the steady demands placed upon it. Two more rounds will save an additional \$3 billion per year, money we need to ensure that tomorrow's force can carry out its mission.

Critics sometimes contend that Defense underestimates the cost of closing a base and over-

estimates the savings. In fact, a recent independent study showed that for the 1993 round of BRAC, Defense actually overestimated the cost and underestimated the savings, while our estimates for the 1995 BRAC round were essentially on target.

The BRAC process seeks to be fair and orderly, allowing communities potentially affected by the decisions the opportunity to weigh in and make their views heard. Moreover, the process helps ensure that base closure can be "the starting bell, not a death knell" for the communities affected, as one congressman put it after seeing his town go through the transition.

Defense now has a great deal of experience in helping BRAC communities find new uses for closed facilities and new sources of employment for affected workers. From Sacramento, Calif., to Charleston, S.C., BRAC communities that organize early, speak with a single voice and seize on assistance from Defense and other federal agencies are finding that base closure can actually be a blessing to replace the stable, but static, sources of income provided by military bases, with dynamic, growth-

oriented private enterprises. Nationwide for bases closed over two years, 75 percent of the civilian jobs have been replaced, and the percent grows every year leading in many communities to far more jobs than Defense previously pro-

vided.

Any business leader will tell you that they could never compete if its board of directors forced it to maintain excess factories and real estate that did not contribute to profitability. Likewise, our military forces cannot compete effectively if

our board of directors -- Congress -- forces us to maintain bases and facilities that do not contribute to our security. Doing so cheats the American taxpayer, imperils the readiness of today's force, and undermines our ability to equip the

force of tomorrow. The ultimate cost will be lives and battles needlessly lost.

Cohen is U.S. secretary of defense. This is related to his report to Congress on military base closures that is being issued today.

USA Today

April 3, 1998

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Navy may settle with slain goatherder's family

By Peter Katel
USA TODAY

The family of a young goat-herder who was shot to death by a Marine guarding the Texas border is discussing a possible financial settlement for his death.

Federal officials acknowledge they are talking to the family of Ezequiel Hernandez Jr., 18, who was tending his family's goats along the Rio Grande, south of the town of Redford, when he was shot last May 20.

"In order for us to resolve this claim, the Navy and the Department of Justice have to place a significant value on this young man's life," said William Weinacht of Pecos, a lawyer for the Hernandez family.

The Navy administers the Marine Corps.

Weinacht said that if talks failed to reach a settlement, the Hernandez family could then file a lawsuit.

The fatal shot was fired from a camouflaged post where four Marines were hiding, on the lookout for drug smugglers.

The Marines said Hernandez fired at them first.

Weinacht said that Hernandez, who carried a .22-caliber rifle, might have shot in the Marines' direction, but that he did not see them in their hiding post.

A Presidio County grand jury investigated the shooting last year but did not indict Cpl. Clemente Banuelos, who fired the shot that killed Hernandez.

In February, the Justice Department closed a civil rights investigation without charging the Marine.

However, it did turn over information to the Presidio district attorney.

Capt. Craig Quigley, a Navy spokesman, said the absence of criminal charges does not necessarily mean the government would pay the family less than if the Marine had been charged.

The shooting led to the military scaling down its drug-war role.

Defense Secretary William Cohen ordered that all troops on anti-drug missions along the border should be unarmed.

The military works with civilian law enforcement agencies on a variety of anti-drug assignments, including air surveillance, training and construction.

Federal law prohibits soldiers from arresting civilians.

Wall Street Journal April 3, 1998 Pg. 18

Cypriot Woes

Clinton Administration envoy Richard Holbrooke is in Cyprus today, trying to undo the vast damage done this week by the European Union to that troubled island's "peace process." To make matters worse, Mr. Holbrooke arrives with a peace plan whose moment, if it ever had one, has passed. That plan, long a staple of official U.S. government policy, is to end the 23-year division of Cyprus by creating a "bizonal federation" between Greek and Turkish enclaves.

The West's approach to Cyprus has long been based on the fantasy that unification is both feasible and desirable. This system was tried between 1960 and 1974, worked badly, and ended in disaster after a Greek military junta tried to seize the whole island for Greece, prompting a Turkish invasion. Since then the West refuses to recognize the self-declared Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, choosing instead to view the Greek Cypriot government as the sole legitimate authority on the island.

Such one-sidedness helps explain the reluctance of Turkish Cypriots to enter into negotiations whose goal is the dissolution of their state. They were hardly mollified by the EU's decision to put Cyprus on its fast-track membership list (just months after gratuitously snubbing Turkey's application). Add to this explosive cocktail Greek purchases of advanced Russian missiles for installation in Cyprus, and what you get are the makings of the most serious crisis in the Aegean in years.

The pity to all this is that as recently as a month ago the prospects for a settlement in Cyprus looked relatively good with both Greek and Turk Cypriots ruled by reasonable men who have shown a willingness to compromise. Unlike other troubled corners of the world, Cyprus's problems are not intractable: Greeks and Turks stick to their side of the dividing line so a potential settlement might involve property restitution, but there are no Bosnia-style ethnic issues. Indeed, absent the provocations of the outside world, the players in Cyprus could come to an accord of their own.

But the outside world cannot stay away. Both Greece and Turkey use their respective Cypriot enclaves as proxies in a larger dispute, steeped in Balkan history and histrionics. As for the Clinton administration, Cyprus seems a good target for its quixotic experiments in diplomacy by therapeutic reconciliation. It hopes to effect that reconciliation by forcing two nations into a purposeless union of doubtful efficacy and guaranteed mutual displeasure.

It is time for a change of tack. Northern Cyprus ought to be internationally recognized. Greek Cyprus, whose economy is thriving, ought to be accepted, on its own, into the European Union. The Greeks should cancel their missile order; the Turks should diminish their military presence. And Mr. Holbrooke could go home.

Washington Post April 3, 1998 Pg. 38

Milosevic Seeks Referendum on Kosovo Talks

BELGRADE -- Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic criticized Western nations for interfering in Kosovo and proposed that a referendum be held on whether foreigners should mediate talks on the future of the troubled province.

Milosevic issued an open letter to top Serbian officials on

the proposed vote, attacking foreign powers for their "extremely negative and aggressive" demands to mediate

talks with Kosovo's increasingly restive ethnic Albanian majority. Ethnic Albanians comprise 90 percent of the population in Kosovo and are pushing for independence from Serbia, the dominant of two republics in the Yugoslav federation.

North Korea famine toll reported to be 1 million

By Barbara Slavin
USA TODAY

A task force of U.S. experts has concluded that at least 1 million North Koreans died of hunger in 1996-97. That means North Korea's famine is as deadly as recent humanitarian disasters in Somalia and Ethiopia.

The finding last month by a 35-member task force of the Council on Foreign Relations, a think tank, coincides with a

decision by the European Union to delay new food assistance to North Korea to press the regime to implement agricultural reforms.

North Korea's state-controlled agricultural system, in decline for more than a decade, reached the crisis point after floods in 1995 and 1996. Significant food aid did not begin arriving until last spring, in part because the regime was reluctant to allow outsiders in to evaluate the

extent of the famine.

"The task force reached a rough consensus and feels comfortable with the figure of about 1 million," said Katy Oh, a Korea expert at the U.S.-funded Institute for Defense Analysis.

At 1 million, the North Korean toll rivals that in Somalia, where 1.5 million died in 1992, and Ethiopia, where 1 million died in 1984.

The U.N. World Food Program, which has provided most food aid to North Korea's 22 million people, appealed for 650,000 tons of grain this year to help make up for another substandard harvest. It was the organization's largest aid program.

The United States agreed

to contribute 200,000 tons of grain, South Korea 50,000 tons and Canada 20,000 tons. But there are no firm commitments from Japan or the European Union.

The 15-member European Union, which gave North Korea \$53 million in food aid last year, has tentatively pledged \$33 million.

North Korea has permitted farmers to sell and trade more food in free markets. But it still tightly controls most aspects of a collectivized agricultural system, including the size of farm cooperatives and the crops they plant. It also has tried to limit the number and travel of outsiders allowed to monitor food distribution.

Mids are uniformly hot

■ *Rules: Summerlike heat cannot bend the merciless uniform rules at the Naval Academy, where midshipmen must wear winter woools for 10 more days.*

By NEAL THOMPSON
SUN STAFF

When spring treats us to these premature whiffs of summer, it's nice to acknowledge the favor with short sleeves, white T-shirts and linen — unless, of course, you're among the 4,000 Naval Academy midshipmen still wearing wool-and-polyester winter uniforms.

Naval Academy students are 10 days away from the annual switch to the short-sleeved, lightweight cotton uniforms they pine for this time of year.

So they roast inside their "working winter blues" or "service dress blues," both made of wool, buttoned to the Adam's apple, with black tie cinched tight and long sleeves snug around the wrist.

"We're living with it," said Chadwick White, a sopho-

more from Canton, Ala.

Mids are slaves to restraint and conformity, governed by regulations that pay no heed to weather. So, when the mercury kisses 90 degrees as it did four times in the past week, obedience exacts a price. In this case: perspiration.

Griping is limited, though. Most Mids tough it out, silently sweating.

"Most of the people here are pretty tough," said Jared Asman, a senior from Detroit. "Some people complain and make a big deal of it, but it's not like we're really suffering."

Severn River breezes help a bit. But it's worse in the classrooms and dorm rooms: No air conditioning is turned on. "The bigger deal is waiting for air conditioning in the classrooms," Asman said.

Mechanical engineering Professor Oscar Barton said Mids' attention spans wane when temperatures rise. But air conditioning won't be switched on for a few more weeks.

"There's some rule where it's got to be five days above 80 before they turn it on," he said.

"Tuesday was unbearable,"

Barton said, referring to the day's record-setting 93. "My back was soaking wet. The students were restless. I had to take a break to let them stretch out."

Bancroft Hall — the dormitory for all 4,000 Mids — has no AC, although four of the eight wings that have been renovated in the past two years had air conditioning installed. But it won't be turned on until the other four wings are renovated in the next two years.

"Everybody's got fans," said Chris Branch, a sophomore from Omaha, Neb.

Six sets of uniforms

Midshipmen are issued six sets of uniforms: two sets for winter, service dress blues for formal occasions and off campus, and working blues for classes; two sets for summer, one formal and one casual; a set of whiteworks, which are like pajamas and worn over gym clothes; and a set of full-dress blues worn on formal occasions, such as parades.

Naval Academy fashion has evolved since the straw hats and white trousers of 1845, said academy museum curator Jim Cheevers. But without the freedom to choose one's own duds, there is always a feeling of helplessness when the weather doesn't mesh with the uniform.

Winter blues (actually black) are wool and polyester; summer

uniforms are cotton and polyester. The joke is that temperatures rise just before the switch to summer uniforms and, of course, turn cold afterward. Still, it's considered a turning point in the year.

Looking ahead

February and March are known as the "dark ages" here. Cold weather and cold moods. Balmy days like yesterday, however, portend the year-end festivities.

The official uniform switch, then, marks the beginning of the end of the year: a cottony-white light at the end of the tunnel.

"Usually, there's a couple weeks right about now when it's hot enough to wear the summer uniforms," said Lt. Chip Crane of the academy's supply department, who is in charge of issuing uniforms.

"The Mids will be happy to get out of their hot uniforms."

Washington Times
April 3, 1998

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To prevent their being resold to a third country, the U.S. Air Force has agreed to buy U.S.-made F/A-18 Hornet jet fighters that cash-strapped Thailand ordered but can no longer afford, Defense Ministry Permanent Secretary Yutthasak Sasiprapa said in Bangkok yesterday.

House panel holds up funds for peacekeeping in Africa

\$9 million sought for effort in Central African Republic

By Tom Carter
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Members of Congress are blocking a State Department plan that would fund a new U.N. peacekeeping mission for the Central African Republic by diverting money intended for Afghanistan and Liberia.

Rep. Benjamin Gilman, New York Republican and chairman of the House International Relations Committee, has put a "hold" on some \$9 million that the Clinton administration wants to use for peacekeeping in the CAR, which borders Sudan, Chad, both Congos and Cameroon.

The United Nations last week authorized the 1,350-member U.N. peacekeeping mission for the CAR. It will begin on April 15 and replace a 1,400-strong French force that has been protecting the government of President Ange-Felix Patasse.

Mr. Patasse's administration has come under attack from mutinous soldiers three times since May 1996.

The U.N. mission is mandated for three months, but the State Department is requesting nine months of funding, as the mission is expected to be extended.

The operation is expected to cost

about \$38 million, with the United States' initial share set at \$9.5 million. U.S. cost for the entire nine-month operation is estimated at \$13.9 million.

But in a March 17 letter to Barbara Larkin, assistant secretary of state for Legislative Affairs Mr. Gilman derided the mission as "nation building," and objected to the State Department plan.

He said the goals of the mission are murky, the exit strategy is inadequate and alternative strategies have not been exhausted.

"Given our experiences in Somalia earlier this decade, we had hoped that the Clinton-Gore administration would have been more skeptical of the possibilities of nation building," Mr. Gilman wrote.

The letter was also signed by Rep. Edward Royce, California Republican, chairman of the Africa subcommittee and Rep. Harold Rogers, Kentucky Republican and chairman of the Appropriations subcommittee of Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary.

A State Department official said yesterday the "hold" is "fairly serious... but we think that once we explain the numbers to Mr. Gilman, he'll go along with the reprogramming. The French are leaving, but they will still be paying a fairly significant amount of the

costs."

U.N. Ambassador Bill Richardson spoke with Mr. Gilman this week about the peacekeeping force, but Mr. Gilman was not persuaded to release the hold, said Jerry Lipson, spokesman for the International Relations Committee.

In a March 12 letter to Mr. Gilman, anticipating U.N. approval for the mission, Miss Larkin set out the Clinton administration's rationale for moving the money from the Afghanistan account to the CAR.

Saying the nation was approaching anarchy, she wrote that the money is unlikely to be used this year in Afghanistan or Liberia and said the "United States has an important policy interest in promoting democracy and stability" in the region.

Yesterday, a State Department official acknowledged that the Great Lakes region immediately to the west of CAR, where there has been much bloody strife through the 1990s, poses no direct threat to the United States. But he added that "instability leads to all kinds of other problems."

"Doesn't it make more sense to head off problems early than spend \$100 million on refugee problems down the line," he said.

Gadhafi extending his sphere of influence to tiny Gambia

Libyan's aim said to be to punish pro-Western regimes

By Ben Barber
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi is spreading his influence in the tiny West African nation of Gambia — his latest target since

arming and training rebels who tore apart Liberia and Sierra Leone, U.S. and other diplomatic sources said.

Libyans have been increasingly active in Gambia since army officers led by Yahya Jammeh seized

power in a 1994 coup, according to diplomats, Gambian opposition leaders and other sources.

They said Libya's aim in Gambia and throughout the region appears to be:

- To punish pro-Western re-

gimes by aiding rebel groups.

- To spread Libya's influence in international organizations.

- To duplicate Libyan leader Gadhafi's rise to power, in which a group of young military officers displaced the traditional upper class.

Libya had been virtually shut out of Gambia until Mr. Jammeh took power. Its embassy had been closed since 1980, when 100 taxis sent by Mr. Gadhafi were used in an earlier coup attempt, according to Herman Cohen, assistant secretary of state for Africa under President Bush.

Since the embassy reopened in 1994, Gambian opposition sources said, the Libyan mission has become among the most active legations in the riverine nation of 1 million, surrounded except on its Atlantic coastline by Senegal.

During a five-day visit to Libya last July, Gambia's interior minister was quoted announcing the signing of a security assistance agreement, under which Libya would provide training and equipment to the Gambian Security Service, police, immigration services and prison wardens.

Jane's Intelligence Review carried a similar report in September.

But Gambia's ambassador in Washington, Crispin Grey-Johnson, denied this week that his country had any agreement with

Libya for training of police or other security forces.

"Our policy is to be friends with everybody. We get assistance from everywhere," he said.

As early as 1995, Libya offered food aid and an interest-free loan to Gambia after the West African country spoke out against U.N. sanctions on Libya.

The countries signed a cooperation accord at that time covering fisheries, agriculture, trade, transportation, communications, health and education, Reuters News Agency reported.

Mr. Jammeh, who won a 1996 presidential election that the State Department said was neither free nor fair, has made several trips to Libya — the most recent within the past few weeks.

On an earlier visit to Tripoli in 1996, the Libyan news agency JANA quoted Mr. Jammeh as saying:

"Since we came [to power] in our country, through a revolution, we have been waiting impatiently to see the great leader Moammar Gadhafi because he was . . . our incentive, for us the small revolutionaries, to achieve this revolution."

Libya's involvement in West Africa has its roots in the Cold War.

Mr. Cohen said the Liberian regime of Samuel K. Doe may have

become a target for overthrow because in the 1980s he gave refueling rights to U.S. aircraft ferrying weapons and supplies to Jonas Savimbi's guerrillas, who were fighting the Soviet-backed Angolan government.

Charles Taylor, the rebel leader who became Liberian president last summer, "got his initial training and guns from Libya," he said.

"Planes flew them into Ouagadougou [in Burkina Faso] and Taylor sent vehicles in to pick up the supplies," said Mr. Cohen, currently senior adviser to the Global Coalition for Africa, a non-governmental economic group.

The trucks were allowed to cross the Ivory Coast by then-President Felix Houphouet-Boigny. Mr. Doe's troops had killed a relative of the Ivory Coast leader during a 1980 coup, said Mr. Cohen.

Libyan intrigue deepened in the region when Gambia and Sierra Leone sent peacekeeping troops, along with Nigeria, to try and stop Mr. Taylor's bid for power in Liberia.

"In revenge," said Mr. Cohen, "Charles Taylor supported anti-government guerrillas in Sierra Leone," who briefly came to power last winter until they were ousted by a Nigerian peacekeeping mission in February.

ARMY WILL SPEND \$366 MILLION ON Y2K COMPUTER FIX

By George Cahlink

The Year 2000 (Y2K) computer problem will cost the Army \$366 million to fix, according to the service's computer chief.

"There is no new funding to pay for this fix," Lt. Gen. William Campbell, director of information systems for command, control, communication and computers, said yesterday in remarks at a breakfast sponsored by the Association of the United States Army's Institute for Land Warfare.

Campbell said the funds for the fix have been taken from existing C⁴I budget lines. If additional funds are required, he said, it would only "exacerbate" funding constraints within C⁴I programs. And Campbell suggested there are still "unknown unknowns" with microprocessor technology that could prove troublesome when the calendar turns to the new millennium.

"This a national problem and a potential Titanic," Campbell said of the Y2K problem.

Referring to recent attacks on Pentagon computer systems, Campbell said the Army would adopt a "layered" approach to defending key tactical systems against electronic attacks. For example, he said a global monitoring system is planned that would be based at Ft. Huachuca, Ariz., and monitor information systems in various theaters throughout the world.

Campbell said \$35 million has been transferred from other C⁴I budget lines to help step up information security efforts. He called information security a "front burner" issue, noting he briefs the Army vice chief of staff on information protection work weekly.

Additionally, Campbell said the Army needs to think about finding ways to digitize its sustaining base. Clearly, he said, the service is committed to digitizing the force with some \$2.6 billion earmarked to allow the service to digitize a division by 2000 and a corps by 2004.

"We have to digitize the sustaining base...Clearly, if we are going to work in the information

age we have to make that investment now," Campbell added.

Other key digital work will focus on extending distance learning programs throughout the force—including the National Guard. Also, he said, digitization will play a key role in the defense reform initiative as the Pentagon eliminates paper copies and evolves to a completely electronic commerce system.

Albright scoffs at critics depicting a 'sinister' U.N.

Washington Times
April 3, 1998
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By Ben Barber
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright heaped scorn yesterday on critics of administration foreign policy who accuse the United Nations of being a threat to U.S. sovereignty.

"There are some who believe the U.N. is a sinister organization" with "a fleet of black helicopters which may, at any moment, swoop down into our back yards and steal our lawn furniture," Mrs. Albright said.

"They say it is bent on world domination, which is absurd, and that we cannot trust it because it is full of foreigners, which we really can't help," Mrs. Albright told a meeting of the American Society of Newspaper Publishers.

Her remarks were the latest salvo in the battle that pits the internationalist Clinton administration against Republicans in Congress fighting to cut U.S. funding and involvement in U.N. peacekeeping and other operations.

Mrs. Albright accused Congress of "blackmail" for attaching pro-life issues opposed by President Clinton to a bill to pay about \$1 billion in U.N. arrears owed by the United States.

"The U.N. is not an alien presence on U.S. soil," she told the editors. "It was made in America."

Mrs. Albright said it has become increasingly difficult for American diplomats to ask that foreign countries fulfill their commitments without hearing those countries ask, "When is America going to pay its U.N. bills?"

She drew the only applause during her speech when she said that

"Congress should act now — without regard to any unrelated issue — to pay our U.N. bills."

A spokesman for a prominent U.N. critic, Rep. Gerald B.H. Solomon, New York Republican, said Mrs. Albright's appeal for U.S. funding of the United Nations should be reversed.

"Mr. Solomon would say it was a question of when the U.N. is going to give the American people and taxpayers credit we've earned through financing over \$6 billion of military peacekeeping on their behalf from 1992 to 1995," spokesman Bill Teator said.

"The congressman is suspicious when an organization continually comes to the U.S. for help for military operations and finance but seems to continually want to downplay U.S. interests," he said.

As an example of the United Nations acting against U.S. interests, Mr. Teator cited "negotiating appeasement of [Iraqi President] Saddam Hussein — which the congressman feels was done by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan." Mr. Solomon said recently that Mr. Annan should be "horsewhipped."

Mrs. Albright said the U.N. intervention in Iraq was an example of correct partnership between U.S. military efforts and U.N. use of diplomacy to prevent conflict.

"This is the way it's supposed to work," she said.

She poked fun at critics "who cannot give the U.N. credit for anything," calling them "the black helicopter crowd."

Anti-U.N. extremists believe that the United Nations maintains a force of black helicopters that would be used to ferry assault

troops. U.N. aircraft and military vehicles are painted white with black lettering.

"U.N. agencies are working to promote nuclear safeguards, punish genocide, prevent disease, protect children, provide early warning of hurricanes and preserve the rights of those who do business overseas," she said.

The cost to average Americans was "about equal to the price of a movie ticket," she said.

A movie ticket in the Washington area costs about \$7.50.

She warned against "those drawn to the false security promised by protection, isolation and retreat."

Mrs. Albright told the editors that "we don't have to be the Mother Teresas everywhere, but our way of life requires" that America be involved around the world.

She cited several challenges other than the U.N. funding issue that are at the top of her agenda in the coming months:

On Iraq, "the process of testing Iraq's commitments has only begun," she said, noting, "We will continue to enforce the no-fly and no-drive zones" established after the 1991 Gulf war to keep Saddam from attacking Iraqis opposed to him.

U.S. soldiers, ships and planes would remain in the Persian Gulf in force, she said.

In Bosnia, she said, the United States would continue efforts to strengthen democratic institutions, build the economy, punish war criminals, return refugees and support reconciliation.

Washington Post

April 3, 1998

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Soldier Arrested In Chiapas Massacre Probe

MEXICO CITY — A Mexican soldier suspected of training a paramilitary group responsible for massacring 45

Indian villagers in southern Mexico has been turned over to civilian prosecutors, a newspaper reported. The Mexican army handed Mariano Perez Ruiz, 23, over to prosecutors for questioning, according to a

report in the Reforma newspaper. The Attorney General's Office was unable to confirm the report.

Prosecutors' request for the house arrest of Perez Ruiz marks the first time investiga-

tors have linked army personnel with the pro-government paramilitaries blamed for the Dec. 22 massacre in the southern state of Chiapas.

The Case Russia Forgot

By William C. Potter

MONTEREY, Calif. -- There is growing bipartisan support in Congress to compel Russia to halt missile exports to Iran. In an effort to defuse the issue, the Russian Government has denied involvement in the transactions and has introduced new controls on the military exports.

The problem, however, is not the lack of Russian regulations, of which there are dozens, but the failure to enforce them. A recent decision by the Russian Government not to prosecute those responsible for exporting missile equipment and technology to Iraq is indicative.

Although the details of the case have yet to be made public, the facts that are known raise questions about how seriously the Russians are taking their nonproliferation obligations.

In November 1995 the Jordanian Government intercepted a shipment to Iraq of Russian missile guidance equipment, including gyroscopes. The next month, inspectors for the United Nations Special Commission on Iraq recovered more gyroscopes from the Tigris River near Baghdad. These were not ordinary gyroscopes, but came from dismantled submarine-launched ballistic missiles, weapons designed to deliver nuclear warheads to targets more than 4,000 miles away.

The Kremlin initially denied that the gyroscopes were of Russian origin. After the commission's leader at the time, Rolf Ekeus, visited Moscow in February 1996, Russian officials admitted the shipment had come from Russia but said the Government was in no way involved. On April 4, 1996, the Russian Government began a criminal investigation into the matter.

Yet that investigation was abruptly closed in October 1997. No prosecutions were recommended. The official explanation from the prosecutor's office was that it could not

establish that a felony had been committed, since the gyroscopes, which had been removed from decommissioned missiles, were technically being stored as scrap metal. Exporting scrap metal, even to an embargoed country, was not worthy of further legal effort.

In fact, the gyroscopes had not simply been taken from the scrap pile. At Iraqi insistence, samples of the gyroscopes were tested and "certified" at the Moscow manufacturing site, the Mars Rotor Plant, according to Russian journalists who have investigated the matter.

It is unclear whether the focus of the Russian criminal investigation included another piece of equipment found by the Jordanians, a rate table used to test guidance instruments. That item clearly was not scrap, and its export is supposed to be regulated under the Missile Technology Control Regime, of which Russia is a member. There also are indications that Russian technicians were scheduled to go to Iraq to recertify the equipment and to provide training once the shipment was received -- notwithstanding the international trade embargo on Iraq.

Moscow's disavowals regarding the Iraq exports resemble its recent statements on the Iran exports -- yes, the equipment appears to be of Russian origin, but the Government had nothing to do with it. Yet the failure to prosecute those involved in the Iraq cases suggests that the Government was not an innocent bystander.

That interpretation is reinforced by the fact that, beginning in 1993, Iraqis have repeatedly visited Russian military-industrial sites. According to Russian accounts, some of those visits were of an official nature and involved substantial delegations of Iraqis.

These visits, which generated a variety of defense contracts, would have to have been sanctioned by Russian Federal Security Service personnel, who are at all sensitive military-industrial sites. Given the extended nature of these con-

tacts and contracts, it is hard to imagine they did not involve some level of Russian Government acquiescence.

Congress is correct to insist that Russia honor its nonproliferation commitments. But it should be skeptical of decrees issued in response to American entreaties that promise more restrictive export regulations and more severe penalties for violators.

The true test of Russia's commitment is the enforcement of existing export control laws. Until flagrant violations are prosecuted and prescribed punishment involving hefty fines and imprisonment is administered, there will be no interruption in the illegal flow of sensitive military material, technology and know-how.

William C. Potter is director of the Center for Nonproliferation Studies at the Monterey Institute of International Studies.

Dayton Daily News
April 1, 1998

Pentagon Myopic About Cuba

By Howard Kleinberg

A fresh Pentagon report concludes that Cuba is no longer a threat to U.S. security. I contend that it depends upon where you live.

Cuba, abandoned militarily by the implosion of the Soviet Union, may no longer be a threat to U.S. security in almost all of the United States, but any significant easing of tensions with Fidel Castro, as recommended by the Pentagon report, will create a threat to the security of South Florida, where more than 1 million people who have fled the domestic tyranny of Castro live to see the day Castro is dead.

The reaction of the exile community can be expected to be volatile in an already too volatile population.

Context is important

I hope the Clinton administration will not read the study

in the wrong context. The Pentagon report deals solely with military matters. It cannot be taken as the basis for normalization of relations between the two countries.

When, in 1962, it was discovered that Castro had permitted Soviet offensive weapons on the island, Cuba certainly was a military threat to the United States.

But that was after the United States broke relations with Cuba, after the United States imposed an embargo on Cuba, after thousands were imprisoned or shot by Castro firing squads following show trials, after properties owned by U.S. corporations were confiscated by Havana and after human rights in Cuba were dissolved.

With the conclusion of the brief but perilous Cuban Missile Crisis and the removal of the missiles, who really could consider Cuba a military threat to U.S. national security?

Our estrangement with Cuba does not revolve around a military threat. It has to do with the transgressions of Fidel Castro on a far broader front.

Both sides must give

Having said that, it also needs to be said that 3 1/2 decades of U.S. policy toward Cuba, fluctuating often on isolated events, has been a dismal failure. That we have not yet come upon a way of dealing with the Cuba situation speaks badly of our foreign policy and extends to our similar positions with countries such as Iran, Iraq and Libya, for which Clinton was publicly upbraided by South African President Nelson Mandela last week.

There needs to be concession on both sides. It has already become a cliché, but if Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat could shake hands, then so could ... (fill in the blanks).

That's what Mandela was lecturing Clinton about. His black majority, upon assuming power, did not slaughter the white segregationists who ruled over them and who massacred or otherwise brutalized many of their sons and daughters. They took the higher ground - worked with their former antagonists - and it seems to be paying off.

The point is this: Cuban military power, or lack thereof, is not grounds for normaliza-

tion of relations. Some manner of measured relaxation, strictly based on quid pro quo, might be. The same could be true with the other nations we consider our enemies.

Cuba, within spitting distance of the United States and with so many persuasive exiles here, is an emotional problem, particularly in South Florida. It can't be determined with just a report on military perceptions.

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April 3, 1998 Pg. 22

U.S. Softens Its Warning On Iran Travel

By Thomas W. Lippman
Washington Post Staff Writer

In the latest U.S. gesture toward reconciliation with Iran, the State Department has watered down its warning against travel there by Americans, removing the assertion that the country is "dangerous" for U.S. citizens and deleting references to "fines, public floggings and long prison terms" for alleged lawbreakers.

In place of a harshly worded assessment issued last July, the department on Wednesday published a much milder version "to reflect President [Mohammed] Khatemi's call for dialogue and the limited private exchanges which have taken place between Iranians and Americans."

The State Department regularly issues information briefs about countries it regards as risky for Americans to visit because of crime, war or natural disaster.

The report on Iran issued last summer began: "Warning: The Department of State warns all U.S. citizens against travel to Iran, which remains dangerous because of the generally anti-American atmosphere and Iranian government hostility to the U.S. government. U.S. citizens traveling to Iran have been

detained without charge, arrested and harassed by Iranian authorities."

In the new version, "The Department of State warns all U.S. citizens to defer travel to Iran." It says Khatemi "has called for a 'dialogue of civilizations' and an increase of private exchanges between Iranians and Americans; some limited exchanges have taken place. There is, however, evidence that hostility to the United States remains in some segments of the Iranian population and some elements of the Iranian government."

In the language of diplomacy, this is night and day. Washington and Tehran, fierce enemies since the Islamic revolution of 1979, have been moving cautiously but at an accelerating pace in recent months toward a more positive relationship.

The two countries have no diplomatic relations and both sides say it would be premature to discuss exchanging diplomats. But it is now the declared policy of both countries to support cultural, academic and athletic exchanges by private citizens.

"It is United States policy to encourage people-to-people exchanges," said Chris Stevens, a State Department official. "It's possible it could create a situation where better political relations would result."

Stevens represented the State Department on Wednesday in New York at a Columbia University conference on how to increase such exchanges. It became clear at the conference that educational and cultural groups are out in front of the government.

Harvard Medical School is providing advanced training for four Iranian pulmonary medicine specialists. Pediatricians, academics and writers from this country who recently toured Iran reported a warm reception. A Mennonite church organization has established a working arrangement with the Iranian Red Crescent, the equivalent of the Red Cross. The organizers of an exchange of wrestlers are planning an Iranian-American film festival, catering to the enthusiasm for film Khatemi displayed as minister of culture.

President Clinton and other

senior officials have stressed that Iran remains a sponsor of international terrorism, and U.S. regulations prohibit doing business with Iran. But the administration has refrained from imposing economic sanctions against three big foreign oil companies that have agreed to finance development of an offshore natural gas field in Iran, in apparent violation of U.S. law.

In a letter to Clinton yesterday, House International Relations Committee Chairman Benjamin A. Gilman (R-N.Y.) said the law requires application of sanctions against the firms. If they have not been imposed when Congress returns after its forthcoming recess, Gilman wrote, "this committee will begin to explore whether there has been a willful decision to not enforce the law in this matter."

Washington Post
April 3, 1998 Pg. 38

Iran and Iraq Begin Large Prisoner Exchange

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- Iran and Iraq exchanged hundreds of prisoners of war at their border yesterday, the official Iraqi News Agency reported. The move was the first stage of a large-scale swap of thousands of POWs captured in the two countries' 1980-1988 war.

Iran freed 800 Iraqi prisoners and Iraq released 62 Iranian prisoners at the Mundhiriya border crossing, INA said. Government-controlled media in Iraq and Iran reported that more than 6,000 prisoners would be freed. If so, it would be the biggest prisoner exchange since 1990 and would mark a major step in the improvement of relations between the two neighbors.

European Stars & Stripes April 3, 1998
Pg. 2

Navy bids repair ship to gulf for warships

By Carlos Bongioanni,
Sigonella bureau

With more than 30 of its warships currently steaming in the Persian Gulf, the Navy has ordered a repair ship from the Mediterranean to the region to help with maintenance problems those ships might encounter. The submarine tender *Simon Lake* passed through the Suez Canal on Tuesday and is expected to arrive in the gulf within the next two weeks, Navy officials said. Homeported in La Maddalena, Sardinia, the *Simon Lake*'s primary mission is to service nuclear submarines. However, the tender, with roughly 1,200 crew members aboard, regularly provides repairs to surface ships as well.

"With the number of ships in the gulf now, the resources of the *Simon Lake* could be put to good use (there)," said Cmdr. Gordon Hume, a spokesman for the Navy's 5th Fleet in Bahrain. "The tender brings with it a wide range of repair capabilities and resources. We will be taking full advantage of that."

Submarines and ships that

come from the United States typically receive repairs from the *Simon Lake* after arriving in the Mediterranean. Under normal conditions, ships destined to the Persian Gulf would get needed routine maintenance done while in the Mediterranean before continuing on their journey. But during the recent crisis with Iraq, as the United States hurriedly built up its military presence in the Persian Gulf, many ships did not stop for repairs in the Mediterranean but went straight to the gulf instead.

The *Simon Lake* is expected to stay in the gulf several months. Cmdr. Brian Cullin, a spokesman for the Navy's 6th Fleet in Gaeta, Italy, said the tender's absence in the Mediterranean should not adversely affect Navy operations in the region.

"Deploying the *Simon Lake* to the gulf is a similar loss of capability as deploying other ship or aircraft that normally provide a presence in the 6th Fleet area of responsibility," said Cullin. "Fortunately, this is not to be a prolonged deployment, and as we have seen with the rapid deployment to the gulf, assets can flow very quickly back into this theater."

SENATE URGES GOV'T ACCOUNTANTS TO AGREE ON DEFENSE SPENDING*By Sheila Foote*

The Senate yesterday adopted an amendment that urges Congress and the administration to reconcile by April 22 a \$3.7 billion discrepancy in estimates of FY '99 defense outlays that, if unresolved, would force Congress to make cuts in weapons programs.

The problem that is the Congressional Budget Office calculates certain defense accounts will spend money at a faster rate in FY '99 than the White House's Office and Management and Budget has estimated. Congress typically uses CBO calculations in preparing the federal budget.

Sen. Pete Domenici (R-N.M.), the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, has said he will work with the Congressional Budget Office, the Office of Management and Budget and the Secretary of Defense to resolve the issue.

By voice vote, the Senate approved the amendment by Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) during debate on the FY '99 Budget Resolution. The Senate's version of the budget resolution contains \$271.5 billion in budget authority and \$266.5 billion in outlays, as agreed upon in last year's budget agreement.

While OMB, however, estimates outlays for the FY '99 defense program will be \$266.5 billion, the CBO says \$270.2 billion will be needed in outlays.

If Congress goes with the higher CBO estimate, it would have to make cuts in budget authority to ensure the DoD does not spend more than is allowed under the budget agreement. That would limit the DoD's ability to obligate new funds for contracts, among other things.

The disagreement "would force a total restructuring" of the DoD's FY '99 budget, according to Stevens' amendment. "The restructuring imposed on the Department of Defense would have a devastating impact on readiness, troop morale, military quality of life, and ongoing procurement and development programs," the amendment states.

The budget resolution begins the annual congressional budget process by setting spending limits in various areas of the federal budget. The House Budget Committee has yet to mark up its FY '99 Budget Resolution.

Washington Post

April 3, 1998

Pg. 39

American Flees Colombian Guerrillas

By Serge F. Kovaleski
and Laura Brooks
Washington Post
Foreign Service

BOGOTA, Colombia, April 2—One of four Americans kidnapped last week at a road-block mounted by a unit of this country's largest guerrilla force escaped from captivity today and was under the protection of the Colombian military.

Thomas Fiore, who was on a bird-watching outing 35 miles southeast of the capital with the three other Americans when they were captured by members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), fled a guerrilla camp in the remote area of El Calvario in central Meta state early this morning.

Fiore, 43, walked for several

hours through the mountains when he serendipitously encountered some Colombian television journalists, according to a report broadcast this evening on Radionet.

Fiore was tired, but appeared to be in good condition following his ordeal, the radio report said. Fiore was flown by military helicopter to a base in Apiay in eastern Colombia and was being transported to Bogota tonight.

It was not immediately clear how Fiore managed to escape.

"In the morning at about 7:30 a.m., I went to where they allow us to go to the bathroom behind a tree very close to where they kept us, maybe about 20 feet away," Fiore said in a telephone interview with RCN radio. The broadcast, however, broke off before he

was able to describe his captivity.

The guerrillas had threatened to kill the Americans if they proved they had links with the CIA, FBI or the Drug Enforcement Administration. The

Clinton administration has steadfastly denied that the four hostages have any ties with U.S. intelligence agencies.

According to Colombian authorities, Fiore -- along with Peter Shen, Louise Augustine and Todd Mark -- was kidnapped by about 50 rebels on March 23. Italian Vito Candela and a group of more than two dozen Colombians also were captured.

Wall Street Journal April 3, 1998 Pg. 1

Washington Wire**U.S. officials consider convening peace talks on Kosovo.**

Worries grow that Serbian repression of ethnic Albanians could still spin out of control. Failure of the six-nation Contact Group to push Yugoslav leader Milosevic toward serious talks frustrates the U.S.

Peace talks with an American in charge, likely with a European co-negotiator, may be the only way to get the par-

ties to the table. U.S. officials are eager to get moving before the next Contact Group meeting late this month. Another big-power meeting with no progress would be an embarrassment for the U.S. and could encourage more violence in Kosovo.

"The state of play seems to be 'stop the violence, start the dialogue' -- but the dialogue hasn't started," says a U.S. defense official.

--Ronald G. Shafer

Wall Street Journal
April 3, 1998 Pg. 1

The Senate approved a revised five-year budget plan 57-41 as GOP leaders scrambled to find savings to pay for constituent-pleasing measures. Funding to restore legal immigrants' food stamps is a target. Republicans beat back a Democratic bid to shield veterans benefits from being used to pay for a big highway bill.

Richmond Times-Dispatch

April 3, 1998 Pg. 4

Key palace searched

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Winding down their first search of President Saddam Hussein's palaces, U.N. arms experts focused yesterday on the one they considered the most important of all — a Baghdad com-

pound holding the offices of Iraq's power centers.

Seventy-one U.N. inspectors and their diplomatic escorts spent a second straight day at the Republican Palace, the last of the eight presidential complexes they have surveyed during the week. The result was not detailed.

Washington Times

April 3, 1998

Pg. 14

Japanese pilots say U.S. fighters too close

TOKYO — Accusing Japan of ignoring their concerns, three Japanese pilots unions said yesterday they will take their complaints about close encounters with American warplanes directly to U.S. authorities.

The unions say Japanese commercial airliners have had three

close calls with U.S. military jets in Japanese airspace since September. None of the airliners was forced to take evasive action, but the pilots say the incidents were dangerous, and asked the Japanese government for an investigation.

All three unions were turned down, said Kazuhiro Kawamoto, a Boeing 747 captain with All Nippon Airways and president of the

Flight Crew Union of Japan.

Mr. Kawamoto said the three unions, whose 6,800 members represent all Japanese commercial pilots, will hand their petition to officials from the U.S. Embassy and the U.S. military. The unions say they're not calling for the departure of the 47,000 U.S. troops in Japan — just new rules to keep fighters away from commercial air routes.

San Francisco Examiner April 2, 1998

Pg. 13

Mexico grounding anti-drug copters

Examiner News Services

Mexico City - Mexico has grounded 72 aging helicopters donated by the United States to fight drug trafficking, saying the aircraft are unsafe.

Mexico's Defense Ministry said late Tuesday that it had

grounded the Huey UH-1H helicopters until officials could determine the cause of mechanical failures.

The report comes after the U.S. Army and National Guard said earlier this week they were grounding their fleets of more than 900 Huey helicopters.

Gearbox problems in the Hueys were blamed for some near disasters last year. The

Army still has not found the cause. Mexico's Defense Ministry did not say whether there had been any accidents.

Washington Post

April 3, 1998 Pg. 38

Israeli Warplanes Bomb Southern Lebanon

SIDON, Lebanon — Israeli warplanes and artillery attacked

suspected guerrilla bases in southern Lebanon, killing a farmer a day after Israel's government endorsed a U.N. resolution calling on it to withdraw from the border enclave.

Two Israeli jets fired four air-to-surface missiles into the hills near the village of Loueizeh in Iqlim Tuffah, a Hezbollah stronghold that faces the Israeli-occupied enclave, Lebanese security officials said.

At Presstime

NATO's Solana blasts Milosevic's Kosovo referendum

SOFIA, April 3 (Reuters) - NATO Secretary General Javier Solana said on Friday a proposal to hold a referendum on international mediation in the Kosovo crisis was "just another mistake" by Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic.

"I am sure that the international community, after two meetings of the Contact Group and with a third one coming in weeks — as things are not moving in the right direction — will perceive this as a manoeuvre to gain time and therefore to increase the risk of conflict," he

said.

Solana, at a news conference in the Bulgarian capital Sofia, also expressed concern at developments in Kosovo. "I am not happy with how things are evolving in Kosovo," he said.

Milosevic, who has rejected foreign mediation in the Serbian province, called on Thursday for a national vote on demands by Western powers and Kosovo's ethnic Albanian leaders for outside mediation.

He suggested that a referendum should ask voters: "Do you accept the participation of foreign representatives in the resolution of the problems in Kosovo?"

Many Serbs dislike foreign interference in their country and regard the West as being biased against them.

"My reaction to that proposal is very negative," Solana said, adding that the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe might present a good mediator. "This is just another mistake President Milosevic is doing."

Hamas vows to carry out widescale revenge attacks

JERUSALEM, April 3 (Reuters) - The military wing of the Moslem militant Hamas group vowed on Friday to launch attacks against Jewish targets inside and outside Israel to avenge the killing of one of its master bombmakers.

"The leadership of Izz el-Deen al-Qassam brigades has decided to carry out a comprehensive and varied plan of attack on several fronts and fields. We will not make do this time with hitting the Zionist depth in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv but the fire of our revenge will extend to what is unexpected by the Zionists and unimagined by others," the group said in a statement.

(Complete wire copy available at CNS)

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